

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 02058 141107Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 IO-13 AID-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /087 W

-----141113Z 022047 /10

O R 141012Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2636

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2058

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR KS US

SUBJ: ROK REACTION TO US FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES

REFS: SEOUL 2018 (NOTAL) (DTG 120350Z MAR 77)

SEOUL 1952 (NOTAL) (DTG 100926Z MAR 77)

SUMMARY: NDP DEMONSTRATION AT CHANCERY MARCH 12 IS IN EMBASSY VIEW A REFLECTION OF THE CONCERNS AND PRESSURES NOW OPERATING WITHIN THE ROK GENERATED BY RECENT INITIATIVES IN US FOREIGN POLICY. OUR TENTATIVE VIEW IS THAT DEMONSTRATION WAS SPONTANEOUSLY INITIATED BY NDP MEMBERS THEMSELVES AND NOT COORDINATED WITH ROKG. GOVERNMENT NOT UNHAPPY WITH OUTCOME, BUT CLEARLY ANXIOUS TO AVOID GIVING OPPOSITION IMPRESSION THAT SUCH DEMONSTRATIONS ACCEPTABLE MEANS PROTESTING ON POLITICAL ISSUES.

END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 02058 141107Z

1. THE MANNER IN WHICH THE MARCH 12 NDP DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TROOPS WAS GENERATED AND THE REACTION FROM THE GOVERNMENT WHICH IT ENGENDERED SYMBOLIZES THE DILEMMA WHICH THE GOVERNMENT AND ALL KOREANS FACE. EVIDENCE WE HAVE GATHERED HERE IN PAST TWO DAYS FROM BLUE HOUSE, POLICE, PRESS, AND NDP SOURCES ALL SUPPORTS THESIS THAT THE DEMONSTRATION WAS

PROBABLY SPONTANEOUS AND THAT THE ONLY COLLUSION WAS A KIND OF PSYCHIC COLLUSION GROWING OUT OF THE OPPOSITION'S SENSE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD APPROVE ITS MOTIVES. SEVERAL NDP OFFICIALS TELL US DEMONSTRATION WAS THEIR OWN IDEA; BLUE HOUSE OFFICIAL SPECULATED THAT IT WAS DESIGNED TO WIN POLITICAL CREDIT THROUGH EXPRESSION OF POPULAR VIEW. THE PRESS TELLS US IT WAS NOT NOTIFIED OF THE DEMONSTRATION BUT FOUND OUT WHEN THOSE REPORTERS REGULARLY STATIONED AT NDP HEADQUARTERS SAW PREPARATIONS, INEVITABLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND PASSED THE ANSWERS ON TO THEIR HOME OFFICES WHICH THEN SENT REPORTERS TO COVER THE EVENT. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MOREOVER STOUTLY CLAIM THEY WERE NOT NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE.

2. AT SAME TIME BLUE HOUSE SECRETARY HAS TOLD POLCOUNS THAT WHILE DEMONSTRATION WAS NOT CONDONED IN ADVANCE, THE GOVERNMENT WAS "NOT CONCERNED" ABOUT IT. HE SAID THE DEMONSTRATION REFLECTS A DEEPLY FELT POPULAR SENTIMENT, AND HE AGREED WHEN POLCOUNS SUGGESTED THAT DEMONSTRATION APPEARED TO SOME TO BE NEATLY TAILORED TO SYMBOLIZE POPULAR CONCERNS HE DESCRIBED.

3. AT SAME TIME WHILE GOVERNMENT MAY NOT BE ALL THAT CONCERNED ABOUT THIS VERY SMALL, CONTAINED DEMONSTRATION, THE POSSIBILITY IT AUGERS OF MORE AND BIGGER DEMONSTRATIONS APPARENTLY DOES WORRY IT. FOR TWO DAYS AFTER DEMONSTRATION THERE WAS NO LOCAL MEDIA COVERAGE AT ALL AND MARCH 14 THERE WAS ONLY ONE OBLIQUE REFERENCE TO IT IN SEOUL PRESS. AS OF THIS WRITING ALL NDP PARTICIPANTS HAVE BEEN RELEASED AND NO CHARGES HAVE BEEN MADE EVEN THOUGH DEMONSTRATION CLEARLY VIOLATION OF EM #9. HOWEVER, PARTICIPANTS ARE STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION, AN INDI-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SEOUL 02058 141107Z

CATION THAT GOVERNMENT HAS NOT RESOLVED HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM OR ISSUE POSED BY DEMONSTRATION.

4. IN SUM AS WE SEE IT GOVERNMENT'S BASIC PROBLEM IS HOW TO SEND US A MESSAGE WITHOUT LETTING POPULAR FEELING ON TROOP AND OTHER US/ROK ISSUES GET OUT OF HAND. AMONG OTHER CONCERNS GOVERNMENT AWARE THAT ADDITIONAL DEMONSTRATIONS COULD SUDDENLY TURN FROM APPEALS TO US FOR TROOPS TO REMAIN TO PROTESTS AGAINST BLUE HOUSE POLICIES. FOR THIS REASON WE ANTICIPATE BLUE HOUSE WILL NOT PERMIT ANY SIGNIFICANT DEMONSTRATIONS TO OCCUR-FOR TIME BEING. IN LONGER TERM THAT POSSIBILITY CANNOT BE RULED OUT, HOWEVER.
STERN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, EMBASSIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SEOUL02058
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770086-1049
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770362/aaaaccqp.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 254e7bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SEOUL 2018
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3116942
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ROK REACTION TO US FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, ASEC, US, KS
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/254e7bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009